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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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December 29, 1994

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Honorable Barbara Mikulski
U.S. Senate
Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 709
Washington, D.C. 20515-2003

Dear Senator Mikulski,

Thank you for your letter forwarding the correspondence you received from the American Library Association (ALA) expressing support for a proposal filed with the FCC in CC Docket No. 94-1 on February 16, 1994 ("Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers") by the ALA, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National Education Association, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and the National School Boards Association. The proposal seeks to redirect the Consumer Productivity Dividend associated with price caps to a program designed to benefit schools and libraries through plans mutually agreed upon by all parties.

I agree that as new technologies develop, it is important to explore the promise of the information superhighway insofar as it will benefit schoolchildren and libraries. To this end, many states are working actively on projects that would facilitate distance learning and connect the classrooms in their states, and I am sure that you are aware of the Administration's recent proposal to use some of the revenues generated from the Commission's personal communications service license auctions for projects to connect schools to the national information infrastructure. In addition, the private sector has been actively working on innovative solutions to promote these goals. The Commission intends to study the proposals of the ALA and others to ensure that the demands of the educational marketplace are satisfied and that the public interest is best served.

As the Price Cap Performance Review is a pending Rule Making, a copy of your letter has been placed in the record in CC Docket 94-1 and will be carefully considered as we resolve the issues therein.

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Honorable Barbara Mikulski

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Thank you again for your interest in this issue.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M.H. Wallman
Chief, Common Carrier Bureau

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI
MARYLAND

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

October 21, 1994

SUITE 709

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

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CCB
94-1
5416

Judy Harris
Director, Office of Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
Room 808
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Harris:

I am writing on behalf of the American Library Association, which has brought to my attention their enclosed proposal to assist schools and libraries to be effective users of the information superhighway.

I agree with them that all citizens should be given "an even playing field" through universal access to these new technologies that are shaping our future. I hope that the FCC will give their proposal every fair consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

BAM:mhr

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
WASHINGTON OFFICE



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October 11, 1994

HAND-DELIVERED

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Mikulski:

I am writing to ask you to send a letter to the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Reed E. Hundt, endorsing an innovative proposal that has been submitted by the American Library Association and several other education groups to the Federal Communications Commission on CC Docket 94-1, the Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers.

We believe that our coalition's proposal is a unique approach in developing the NII to give all citizens an "even playing field" through access to these new technologies. As part of our FCC proceeding, ALA has been working with an alliance of other educational groups including the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National Education Association, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and the National School Boards Association.

Our proposal asks that the FCC redirect the Consumer Productivity Dividend (CPD) to a special account which the LECs would charge against for investments made in educational and library infrastructure initiatives in their service areas. Currently, these "monies" seem to have fallen into a regulatory black hole.

We have said in our filing: "the system would work as a significant incentive for (local telephone companies) to meet the urgent universal service needs of education and libraries to be effective users of the information superhighway in the future."

Enclosed are a number of background materials on the filing. We would be glad to arrange a briefing for you and your staff and answer any questions you may have.

Your endorsement to our filing to the FCC would provide valuable support for the proposal which encourages investment in technologies and services to ensure the public benefits from the resources of the NII through our libraries and educational institutions.

Access to books could historically equalize the playing field for children from differing economic backgrounds. But now, resources available via the NII must also be equally accessible. We hope that you will endorse our proposal to the FCC and would be glad to answer any questions you have about our filing.

Sincerely,

Carol C. Henderson
Carol C. Henderson
Executive Director
ALA Washington Office

cch:plm

Enclosure (6)